

Kentucky Secondary Schools Alliance

Volume One, Edition Two

October 6, 2005

Alliance News and Notes

- Check next week's news for a recap of the State Board Meeting!
- Also next week, a summary of highlights from the High School Reinvention Symposium held in Washington, DC last weekend. We had 257 Kentuckians in attendance at that conference! Our highlights will include how KDE will be working with ICLE to bring together the Rigor and Relevance Framework and the Core Content, Version 4.0. Stay tuned for that important update!
- Do you remember the 2005 Model Schools Conference? We have just received our shipment of Dr. Daggett's addresses, *Preparing Students for Their Future* and *Successful Schools—From Research to Action Plans*. We will mail each Alliance high school, middle school and superintendent a copy of the DVDs next week. We purchased a site license so that you may copy these materials for use in team meetings, professional development workshops and information sessions.

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Upcoming Events

KSBA Regional Meetings

One of our partner groups, the Kentucky School Boards Association, is conducting a round of regional meetings. A focus for these meetings is "High School Reform and the Role of Kentucky School Boards." A brief videotaped introduction from Commissioner Wilhoit will be followed by a KDE developed presentation on the issues and challenges that must be addressed to make important changes in Kentucky's high school structure. Tom Welch, Director, Seeding Innovation, is assisting KSBA in delivering this message at their regional meetings.

Many Alliance schools have asked for similar offerings and KSBA has graciously opened these regional meetings to those who need a general awareness session. Check the schedule below and if one of these information sessions will fit into your schedule, RSVP with Robin Whitaker at KSBA, rwhitaker@ksba.org. There is no charge to attend the meeting unless you also want to have dinner that evening, but register your attendance in either case with Robin.

Meeting Schedule:

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Fifth Region | October 6 | Eminence School Cafeteria | 7:00 pm ET |
| Upper KY River | October 10 | Owsley County High School | 6:00 pm ET |
| Second Region | October 13 | Webster County Annex | 6:30 pm CT |
| Northern KY | October 18 | Receptions Conference Cnt | 7:00 pm ET |
| Eastern KY N | October 20 | Simons Middle School | 6:30 pm ET |
| Eastern KY S | October 24 | Pikeville HS Commons Area | 6:30 pm ET |
| Third Region | October 25 | Simpson Elementary | 6:30 pm CT |
| Central KY | October 27 | Lincoln County High School | 6:30 pm ET |
| Upper Cumberland | November 1 | Williamsburg Ind. School | 6:30 pm ET |
| Fourth Region | November 3 | Kreso's Restaurant | 6:30 pm ET |

A big thank you to the Kentucky School Boards Association and especially Tim Holt from KSBA for making our participation in these regional meetings possible!

October 26th visit with Ray McNulty and Dick Jones

Join us at the Lexington Convention Center as Ray McNulty and Dick Jones from the International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE) visit us in the first of ten national support meetings. Kentucky was selected as the kick-off to this ten series event. The workshop is free to Successful Practices Network Members!

Pre-Registration is required

Each school may send three people to the event. Register by contacting Rachel at the ICLE at Rachel@leadered.com

Tentative Agenda

Tentatively, Ray and Dick will speak on the Rigor/Relevance Framework, Gold Seal Lessons and the Learning Criteria. These sessions will be designed to help move us to the implementation level. If you have any questions about program specifics or about which folks from your school and district should attend, call the Center directly at 518-399-2776.

This is an all day event. Snacks will be provided during breaks, lunch is on your own.

Student Summits Rescheduled

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| October 31 st | Somerset | Regional Service Center |
| November 1 st | Floyd County | Mountain Arts Center |
| November 7 th | Bullitt County | Conference Center |
| November 9 th | Erlanger | NKU METS Center |
| November 21 st | Murray | Murray State University |

Due to making the summits regional in nature, schools will be asked to bring more students to the summit. Be thinking about expanding your student team to at least ten (10) students! Depending on the facility location, we may be able to further expand the level of student participation.

We will have registration information for you next week!

Questions? Contact Debbie at Debbie.powers@education.ky.gov

Alliance Regional Meetings

Following advice offered to us at the August Alliance Advisory Council meeting, we plan to offer a series of five regional support workshops for Alliance members. Topics and agendas will be tailored to the needs of the Alliance members within those regional groups. Our hope is that districts will assume a leadership role in both support and mentoring of other districts within their region.

We will release dates and locations by October 14th for planning purposes.

Math Summit

Information has already been released to every Kentucky high school concerning participation in the statewide Math Summit being held on November 17th from 8:00-4:00 pm at the Holiday Inn University Plaza, Bowling Green. Each school district has been invited to send one district level registrant and one representative from each high school and one middle school. Registration is provided through this link: [Math Summit](#)

MATH SUMMIT

Diagnostic Assessment with a focus on key standards in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II

Registration Deadline: November 1

· Tentative Schedule

8:00 - 8:10 Welcome

8:10 - 8:45 Secretary Fox & Commissioner Wilhoit

9:45 Break

10:00 - 10:45 Overview of Assessments - Bill Bush

10:45 - 12:00 Break-out Session - Review of Individual Assessments and Items

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 2:30 Breakouts - Small group discussions around probing questions (e.g. What does your classroom assessment look like? How might these assessments help you? What problems do you see in using them? What should our next steps be? How might achievement gaps be addressed with the assessments?)

3:00 - 4:00 Report out and closing remarks

Favorite Links

- [School Redesign Network](#)
- [International Center for Leadership in Education](#)
- [Successful Practices Network](#)
- [CATS Results from KDE](#)
- [Business Forum on Kentucky Education Report](#)
- [Prichard Committee Report](#)
- [Kentucky Department of Education Homepage](#)

Did you know...?

● **We want a logo for the Kentucky Secondary Schools Alliance!** Gather up some students, toss them the idea and have them send their .jpg images to us! We will select a logo from the student entries received. Send entries to Debbie.powers@education.ky.gov no later than November 1st.

● **Money for literacy programs is available.** Could you use an extra \$1,000 for your library or your literacy program? What about an extra \$25,000? Check out www.pattersonpageturner.org for information!

● **State Farm** has \$1,000 grants available tied to the National Day of Service in April. These grants are available for teachers AND students to write! How awesome would it be for a student to write a grant proposal and get funded? Check out their website and let us know if you have a successfully funded proposal! [Click here: State Farm Grants](#)

- **The College Board** is currently seeking applications for the following two award programs.

2006 Inspiration Awards

The College Board 2006 Inspiration Awards celebrate America's most improved high schools. Three winning schools will receive \$25,000 each, and five honorable mention schools will receive \$1,000 each. Inspiration Award-winning schools improve the academic environment and help students achieve the promise of a higher education. Winning schools initiate unique programs and create partnerships among teachers, parents, community organizations, and local businesses to help more students attend college. The Inspiration Awards are open to all secondary schools (public and nonpublic) in which 40 percent or more of the students receive free or reduced-price lunches. Schools should be able to demonstrate significant and consistent growth across the entire student population in:

Participation in rigorous curricula, such as the Advanced Placement Program® (AP), IB, or other honors courses

Participation in PSAT/NMSQT®, SAT®, or ACT program assessments that demonstrate preparation for attending college

The percentage of students accepted to two- or four-year institutions of higher education

For additional information or to download an Inspiration Awards application, go to www.collegeboard.com/inspirationawards, call (212) 713-8052, or email InspirationAwards@collegeboard.org. The deadline for application submissions is **November 18, 2005**. Award winners will be announced in April 2006.

Bob Costas Grants for the Teaching of Writing

Six grants of \$2,000 each will be awarded to teachers who inspire students to write. The grants will help teachers continue a current project or start something new. Projects can be carried out in school, through an after-school writing workshop, or during a summer program. Activities might include a student newspaper or website; a creative writing group for aspiring poets or songwriters; a program for integrating writing and mathematics; a workshop in science fiction or sports writing; or an activity using student writers to help senior citizens record their life stories. Any project qualifies if it turns young people onto the joy of writing. Public and nonpublic school teachers of grades 6 through 12 from all subject areas are encouraged to apply.

The College Board created the Bob Costas Grants for the Teaching of Writing to support teachers and to thank Bob Costas, the Emmy Award-winning broadcaster and author, for his generous public service work on behalf of writing instruction.

Applications must be postmarked on or before **November 18, 2005**. All application material should be submitted together in one mailing.

Download the [guidelines, timeline, and application](#).

Contact Information

We have an entire team "and then some" at KDE devoted to Secondary Education, including middle level programming. Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding secondary issues. Our division is located within the Office of Teaching and Learning with most of us located on the 19th floor of the Capital Plaza Tower.

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|---|---|--|
| Linda Pittenger | Division Director | Linda.pittenger@education.ky.gov |
| (Linda has three branches under her supervision; Secondary Education, Virtual Learning, Dropout Prevention) | | |
| Jennifer Carroll | Branch Manager | Jennifer.carroll@education.ky.gov |
| (Responsible for oversight of all programs in the Secondary Branch: Refocusing Secondary, Advanced Placement, Middle Level Programs, Extended School Services, and Secondary GED) | | |
| Monica Simpson | Secondary GED & Extended School Services | Monica.simpson@education.ky.gov |
| Julia Harmon | Middle Level Programs | Julia.Harmon@education.ky.gov |
| Joni Crowe | Middle Level Programs | Joni.Crowe@education.ky.gov |
| Jim Beward | AP Consultant | Jim.Beward@education.ky.gov |
| Debbie Powers | Refocusing Secondary | Debbie.powers@education.ky.gov |
| Tommy Floyd | Refocusing Secondary & Highly Skilled Educator | Tommy.Floyd@education.ky.gov |

There are numerous others at KDE working as part of the secondary learning team including

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Robin Chandler | Staff Assistant to the Associate Commissioner, OTL | Robin.chandler@education.ky.gov |
| Debbie Daniels | Highly Skilled Educator | Debbie.daniels@education.ky.gov |
| Rodney Kelly | Director, Career and Tech Ed | Rodney.Kelly@education.ky.gov |
| Tom Welch | Director, Seeding Innovation | Tom.welch@education.ky.gov |

Web address

Check out the [Refocusing Secondary Education](#) website. The site is currently under construction and revision, so hang in there while we update it! You can find an Alliance Schools directory listing on this website as well as important resources and upcoming state events.

Office phone

Call us at 502-564-4772

Alliance Newsletter Information and Submission Details

We are on the lookout for interesting information to share with our Alliance members. Got a great thing going at your school? Need technical assistance? Got an "I wonder" rolling around in your head? Contact us! Send your information to: Debbie Powers, Refocusing Secondary Program Consultant at Debbie.powers@education.ky.gov.

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Next edition: October 13, 2005